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| <b>SEP 19 2006</b>  |                                  |   |
| <b>RESPONSE TO RESTRICTION<br/>REQUIREMENT</b><br><br>Address to:<br>Commissioner for Patents<br>P.O. Box 1450<br>Arlington VA 22313-1450 | Attorney Docket Confirmation No. | 10040012-1<br>3835  |
|   | First Named Inventor             | Peter Webb  |
|   | Application Number               | 10/817,115  |
|   | Filing Date                      | April 2, 2004   |
|   | Group Art Unit                   | 1631  |
|   | Examiner Name                    | Mary K. Zeman   |
|   | Title                            | METHODS FOR<br>ENCODING NON-<br>BIOLOGICAL<br>INFORMATION ON<br>MICROARRAYS |

Dear Sir:

This communication is responsive to the office communication dated August 14, 2006.

In the above referenced office communication, the Examiner imposed a restriction requirement, requiring the election of the claims of either:

Group I, i.e., Claims 1-10 and 26-27;

Group II, i.e., Claims 11-16;

Group III, i.e., Claims 17-19;

Group IV, i.e., Claims 20-22;

Group V, i.e., Claims 23-25; or

Group VI, i.e., Claim 28;

for further prosecution in this application.

The Applicants hereby elect Group I with traverse.

The Applicants also respectfully urge the Examiner to rejoin the claims of Groups II-VI with the elected claims of Group I for examination in this application for the following reasons.

The MPEP allows an Examiner to examine otherwise patentably distinct sets of claims if to so would not impose an undue burden on the Examiner. M.P.E.P. § 8.03 states that:

**If the search and examination of an entire application can be made without serious burden, the examiner must examine it on the merits, even though it includes claims to independent or distinct inventions.**

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In the present case, elements of the claims of Group I are found in the remaining claims of Groups II-VI. As such, it is believed that the search for the claims of Group I will find any relevant prior art relating to the claims of Groups II-VI.

Accordingly, little, if any, additional searching should be required for the claims of Groups II-VI, and therefore the examination of the claims of Groups II - VI together with the claims of elected Group I should impose little, if any, additional burden on the Examiner.

As such, examining the claims of Groups II-VI and the claims of elected Group I together in the present application clearly does not impose an undue or serious burden on the Examiner. In the absence of such an undue or serious burden, the Examiner is clearly instructed by the MPEP to examine the entire application. Therefore, the Examiner is respectfully requested to rejoin the claims of Groups II-VI with the claims of elected Group I and to examine all the claims together in the present application.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any underpayment of fees associated with this communication, including any necessary fees for extensions of time, or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 50-1078.

Respectfully submitted,  
BOZICEVIC, FIELD & FRANCIS LLP

Date: September 19, 2006

By: 

Bret E. Field  
Registration No. 37,620

Agilent Technologies, Inc.  
Legal Department, DL429  
IP Administration  
P.O. Box 7599  
Loveland, CO 80537-0599

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